These will bring over 909 acres under irrigation, and are likely to be highly profitable. Several have already been sanctioned for execution in 1084. Six more are under investigation.

"Investigation of the Erattakarakal extension was in hand during the year and the results so far are favourable.

"The water distribution has been in the hands of the department, and notwithstanding great shortage of local rain and partial failure of the south-west monsoon, all the land under the Kodayar Project, for which channels are finished, was supplied with Kodayar water and the crops were brought to maturity.

"The Dam and the Head Works and the Left Bank Channel are in good order. The brick-lining has stood well.

"The irrigation channels have been generally well maintained.

"A small scouring sluice was built into the Puthen dam and has proved very useful in scouring out sand from the river bed."

36. The Kodayar Irrigation Cess.—Speaking in regard to the irrigation cess proposed to be charged on lands benefited by the Kodayar Project, I said to the Assembly last year that a special officer was then investigating the question, that after his report was received, I would visit the area concerned and hear what the ryots had to say before final orders were passed by Government. Agreeably to that promise, I visited the southern taluks and inspected large areas commanded by the Kodayar Project. I also held conferences with the ryots at Padmanabhapuram and Nagercoil. After a very careful consideration of the whole question, His Highness' Government resolved to impose a uniform irrigation cess of one rupee per acre on all registered *wet* lands commanded by the Kodayar system in the four taluks of Tovala, Agastisvaram, Eraniel and Kalkulam, irrespective of the tenures of the lands and their settlement land assessments, with effect from 1085. It was also resolved that inam lands and lands free from the payment of land tax shall pay the cess as much as other lands.

The rates of irrigation cess, to be imposed on the registered *dry (and garden)* lands, already converted into wet or likely to be so converted on account of the water supply now afforded, were also fixed.

The disposal of the waste lands on either side of the L. B. Channel and of the tank-beds was considered and instructions were laid down in regard to them. A forecast of the probable revenue which would accrue from the Kodayar Project when the above orders come into full operation, was made. A return of over 3 per cent on the capital outlay is expected.

37. Communications in North Travancore.—I mentioned to the Assembly last session that His Highness' Government were aware that the state of communications in North Travancore compared unfavourably with that in the South, but I added that, in the then state of the public finances and with the Kodayar works on hand, it was not possible to spend much on new works anywhere. We are however now making such rapid progress with the several channels connected with the Kodayar scheme that we are sanguine that the capital expenditure on the works would

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